



Father Sam's Forum

The parting words of Jesus from the Gospel of John form such a large piece of our Easter Scriptures. I believe it's because those who put together the lectionary—the book of readings—wanted us to see that Jesus was praying for us just as he was praying for his disciples. Since we are the inheritors of their faith, handed down over the generations, we can conclude that the Lord had us in mind as well.

One of the new changes coming when the prayers at Mass become revised according to their original Latin translation is the dismissal. Now the deacon or priest tells us, "The Mass is ended, go in peace." In the new text it will become, "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord." That should say something to you. It isn't just that we are done for the week. It isn't me saying, "well, thanks for coming, see you next Sunday." This is a bold statement of who we believe we are. Disciples. **Go...announce the Gospel.**

A part of being a disciple is undergoing the transformation that comes with conversion. It never ends. Our goal is to grow closer to Christ, more and more each day, all our lives. In the *Lesson of the Week*, I address change and try to put it into perspective.

Next weekend, I plan to speak at all the Masses about changes in our parish. We are reshaping the way we approach learning about our faith, our Pastoral Council has determined a plan for us to live by in the next year, and our staff will undergo some changes.

Some of you may be wondering why all of this is necessary. So let me tell you. First, any time we don't grow to meet the challenges of our times, we become out of date and can't speak the truth of our faith to the world around us. Our parish has grown so much in the past decade, and we can't ignore that. How can we meet the needs of the young families, as well as everyone else who is a member of this faith family?

The next reason for change is because we want to model ourselves on the vision of our bishop to be a *Church Alive*. This means we have to get excited about sharing our faith and look at new ways to do that. The final reason is that I have just completed my second year as pastor here on May 21. After watching the life of the parish unfold and listening to many of you tell me your vision for St. Benedict, it's time to act. That's my responsibility as pastor. If I

am to lead you as your spiritual father, then there are decisions to make about how we approach our precious faith, share it, and try to live it out. So please continue to pray for me that I might have the wisdom and strength I need to fulfill my role and keep the promises I made to the bishop when he appointed me here.

When he arrived in 2007, Bishop Zubik told the priests that while he would always listen to us, there would probably be times when he made decisions we would not agree with or understand. The same is true for any pastor. Charged with leadership and accountability, he must sometimes make decisions that might be unpopular but in the long run will benefit the parish. I pray those I make will be always for the benefit of our parish, to help it become all it can and should be; to expand the vision and live the Mission. St. Benedict the Abbot, pray for us!

Mass Intentions: May 24—May 31

Sunday, May 24—Seventh Sunday of Easter

7:30a **For the People of the Parish**
10:00a **Mike & Norma Ostronic** (Donna Burt)
12:30p **Marie Metz** (Religious Ed Staff)

Monday, May 25—Easter Weekday

8:30a **Deceased of the Rocco & Fox Families**
(M/M James Rocco Family)

Tuesday, May 26—Philip Neri, priest

6:30a **Robert Lang, Sr.** (The Clark Family)
8:30a **Joseph Gastan** (Tom & Linda Burke)

Wednesday, May 27—Easter Weekday

6:30a **Geraldine Ehland**
(Moore-Boehm Enterprises)
8:30a **Ann Stancovan** (Patricia Fink)

Thursday, May 28—Easter Weekday

6:30a **Grandma Dubaniewicz** (Family)
8:30a **James C. Rocco** (The Kalaski Family)

Friday, May 29—Easter Weekday

8:30a **Edward J. Puskarich, Sr.** (Ellie)

Saturday, May 30—Easter Weekday

8:30a **Brent Stiffler** (The Watson Family)
5:00p **Vigil of Pentecost: Nancy Norton Daufenbach** (The Christopher Norton Family)

Sunday, May 31—Pentecost

7:30a **Virginia Regina** (Matthew & Kelly Hillebrand)
10:00a **For the People of the Parish**
12:30p **Marguerite Singer** (Gene & Rose Rockacy)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Deceased Members of the Mikos & Rodal Families, requested by Dennis & Maryann Rodal, and the Bread & Wine is in memory of Wilma Lokash, requested by Jack & Betty Brucker.



Pastoral Staff

Lay Ecclesial Ministers

Michael Benya, Business & Facilities Manager—Ext. 201
 Gregory Fincham, Director of Music Ministries—Ext. 304
 Dennis Gehrlein, Pastoral Associate—Ext. 206
 Janet Roberto, Young Adult Minister—Ext. 234
 Colette Specca, Director of Faith Formation—Ext. 205

Parish Staff

Mary Ann Bitters, Parish Secretary—Ext. 200
 Rachele Buynak, Formation Coordinator—Ext. 208
 Justin Cumer, Maintenance—Ext. 200
 Shirley Jacobs, Bookkeeper—Ext. 202
 Beverly Jurcic, Director
 St. Benedict's Preschool—724-731-0222
 Cathy Malencia, Middle School Minister—Ext. 209
 Elaine Motyl, Young Adult Coordinator—Ext. 234
 Dave Murtaugh, Maintenance—Ext. 200
 Kathy Pfeifer, Communications Coordinator—Ext. 200
 John Risher, Weekend Maintenance—Ext. 200
 Kevin Wolford, Maintenance Supervisor—Ext. 200
 * Formation Office/Youth Ministry—724-941-9587

Serving the Parish Next Weekend: May 30—May 31

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Esposito
Lectors: Buzzatto, Reisz **Greeters:** Reed, Patnesky **EMHC:** P & G Adams, Specca, D & T Martin, LaCamera, Femiani, Getto, Norton **Servers:** LaRosa, Hillen, Getto, Lioon, Reisz

7:30am— Fr. Esposito
Lector: Rossin **Greeters:** J & R Jackson **EMHC:** Hollot, E & R McMillan, Vines, J & S Christopher, Gavran **Servers:** Shaw, Bowlin, Wiegmann

10:00am— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Jack Layton
Lectors: Ruggieri, Richardson-Gohring **Greeters:** Becker, Oberschelp **EMHC:** Schultz, Glod, Kail, Klinar, Glover, A & L Kelly, Faina, Serrino **Servers:** Curry, Z & J Verner, Hilzendeger, Mullan

12:30pm— Fr. Ruffalo
Lector: Zuk **Greeters:** Ragan, Fink **EMHC:** McGinnis, Boyd, Huffner, Oldaker, B Smith, Black, Hayward **Servers:** Watson, G & M Oberschelp

Readings for the Week of May 24

Sunday: Acts 1:15-17,20a,20c-26/1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-19
 Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Jn 16:29-33
 Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Jn 17:1-11a
 Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Jn 17:11b-19
 Thursday: Acts 22:30;23:6-11/Jn 17:20-26
 Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Jn 21:15-19
 Saturday: Acts 28:16-20,30-31/Jn 21:20-25
 Next Sunday: Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7,12-13

Pentecost Vigil Mass

Like last year, the *Vigil Mass* for Pentecost will not be like a regular Saturday afternoon Mass. With some additional readings and ceremony, this special liturgy connects us to the Great Vigil of Easter as we conclude the 50 days of Easter. Those baptized at the Easter Vigil will return their white robes. If you want to have a unique experience of Church, plan now to attend and participate. That's Saturday, May 30, 5:00pm Mass.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them

Please remember in your prayers our parishioners **Helen Orcutt, Elsie Siget, and Mary Elizabeth Salva**; former parishioner **Frank Cavasinni; Edith Sandretto**, mother of our parishioner Joann Teodori; and **Frances Resignalo**, grandmother of Fr. Michael Ruffalo, who died recently. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Preschool News

We have had another successful year at our school. We are looking forward to beginning our fourth year at St. Ben's. We have added additional classes for next year, and as a result, we still have a few openings left in our PM Early Learners class and in our PM Pre-K class. If you or anyone you know is interested in exploring our school, please call 724-731-0222 for information. Thanks and have a great summer!

Lost & Found

It seems that every week we find items that people leave behind after attending Mass. We have glasses, umbrellas, coats, purses, children's items, etc. If you think you left something behind during Mass, check and see if we have it. Come to the office or check the tables in the narthex. We are planning to clean out the left behinds and give them to the poor after two weeks of us finding them.

New Position Available

Since the last posting in the bulletin, the *Parish Communication Manager* position has become the *Parish Life Manager*. This person will be responsible for the day to day operation of the parish office, including keeping the calendar and schedule; payroll and personnel; communications of all kinds including electronic; and overseeing the work of the yet to be formed Communications Committee. Beginning as part time, the position will become full time in 2010. See Fr. Sam if you are interested.

Hotline for Victims of Sexual Abuse
412-456-3060 or 1-888-808-1235



Summer Ministers Schedule

It's time to schedule ministers for Masses in July, August and September. All Greeters, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Altar Servers should submit any away dates or schedule changes to Kathy Pfeifer at staff@stbenedicttheabbot.org, put "Minister Schedule" in the subject line, or call 724-941-6541. **Please note that this is a different e-mail address.** She will run the schedule the first week of June, so have your information to her before May 31.

Building Fund Donations

In Memory of Mildred Teodori

Dr. & Mrs. George Liebler

Tables and Chairs

As of June 30, we will no longer have tables and chairs available for private use. With more and more programs and events here, we find that we need the chairs more, and additionally, the tables and chairs come back in worse condition after being given out, so that they have become damaged over the years.

Sharing Your Talents—II

Bishop Zubik's second pastoral letter, *The Church Sharing*, calls on every Catholic in our diocese to consider how he or she uses their God-given talents and abilities. As we grow our parish programs and find so many new needs around the campus for upkeep of buildings, one consideration is to develop a "talent" folder—a listing of all the abilities our members have that can be of service to the parish. Right now for summer, Fr. Sam is looking for an architect to advise on the Pope Benedict Activity Center renovations; we might also need an engineer to advise. We also plan to paint the classrooms on the upper floor of the Education and Family Life Center and replace the carpet. Who do we call when we have specific needs like electrical work or plumbing, sewing or painting? Our parish continues to rely on the generous sharing of all its members. We want to encourage everyone, especially our newer members, to take a role in parish life. Our stewardship is about that very thing. How do we give back from what we have received? In the sharing of time, talent and treasure, we return to God some portion of the blessings that come from Him in the first place. Call the office to identify your special talent and how you might help us this summer.

Youth Ministry News

Appalachian Mission Trip Collection

At this time, we have over 25 teens and adults going to the Appalachian Mountains in Kentucky for a summer mission trip. All teens going are asked to sign up to take part in a collection after the Masses over the weekend of May 30-31. Please start promoting this collection since all proceeds will go to cover the expenses of the trip as well as benefit the ministries of Fr. Beiting, our host.

We Need Your Input!

If you would like to see your children involved at St. Ben's, now is your chance to make that happen. The newly formed Youth Council will be meeting on May 28, 7:30pm in Room 210. This "Open Forum" setting provides an opportunity to hear from all those attending. There are NO commitments to volunteer for the activities. We would love to hear from you, or just come and listen! If you have questions, or want to be added to our email distribution list, contact youthcouncil@stbenedicttheabbot.org.

Vacation Bible School News

Make sure you get your VBS counselor form in by May 29th. This year's theme is Crocodile Dock, and it is scheduled for the week of July 13-17. There are many activities to be planned and positions are limited. If you need a form, please call the Youth Ministry Office at 724-941-9587 to be part of the 5th and 6th grade program.

A Great Big Thank You!

Thank you to all the parents who gave their time and effort to make the Battle of the Bands a huge success. A special thanks to the three teens who came up with idea to benefit the greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, Taylor Maher, Austin Nissly, and Kyle Sheth. Over \$400 and 20 boxes of food were collected!

Youth Ministry Mulch Sale

St. Benedict teens will once again be selling mulch this Spring. This fundraising event helps the Youth Ministry program reduce the cost of summer programs and retreats. Please pick up an order form and price list in the narthex of the Church or in the Church Office.



Question of the Week

Why do we ask parents to pay a fee for our (religious education) formation program?

Lesson of the Week

Why is there so much change in the Church; I thought it was the one place we could count on not to change?

Change...it's a real part of everyone's life. When we think of the Church though, we seldom think about it as a living organism. But if we believe we are the Church, we are the Body of Christ, then we are living. And all living things change. While what we believe does not change, for example, that the Eucharist is the true and real presence of Christ; that God is revealed to us as a Trinity of persons; that Jesus is the Son of God who died for our sins and rose to give us new life, we can see that how we practice our faith or how it is lived out in our own time does change.

If we want to know what doesn't change, all we have to do is go to the Creed. This profession of faith has been around since the earliest days of Christianity. Don't expect the doctrine, the teaching of the Church to change as far our core beliefs. The Pope is not going to come out tomorrow and announce that we made a mistake and the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist is merely a symbol. While other Christian denominations may believe that, Catholics have always held that in the consecrated bread and wine there subsists the Body and Blood of Christ.

For most people, the changes they experience as Church are the non-essential ones like the time of their favorite Mass or when confessions are heard. Some pastors make changes like moving certain items in the sanctuary or adding or removing objects around the parish church or property. But these aren't things that usually matter. And yet these kinds of changes give people the biggest problems because they don't understand that as time and circumstances change so must a parish.

Here in our diocese, as we face declining numbers of priests, there will certainly be changes in the way the sacraments can be celebrated. Smaller parishes may have no resident pastor and share a priest with another nearby parish. Larger parishes may not always have a parochial vicar. A question for us is if we should look at our daily Mass times. While the schedule may be convenient for those who are retired, what of the moms who have to put their kids on the bus and can't come for 8:30? Would a 9:00 time be better to include them? Several have said it would.

News from Faith Formation

Vacation Bible School 2009

"Crocodile Dock" Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of July 13-17 for children in Grades K-4. Get ready for an exciting adventure where you'll be swamped in activities and buzzing with fun. Registration forms will be mailed by the end of May.

Calling All Artists - 7th-12th Grade

The Religious Education Department is looking for talented parish students who would enjoy painting the set design for Vacation Bible School. This service opportunity is open to any student willing to help out before VBS begins. We will be painting between June 2 and June 30. You do not have to sign up as a VBS Counselor to participate. To volunteer, please call the Cathy Malencia, at 724-941-9587 Ext. 209.

Registration for 2009-10

Registration for the Formation Program (Religious Education) for the coming year will begin early this summer. Watch for more details in the weeks ahead.

Youth Council News

St. Benedict Youth Council has a team of students in grades 6 –8 who will take part in the "Relay for Life" on May 30–31 at the PTHS stadium. The team is busy planning and fundraising. On the day of the relay our team booth will hold a "Balloon Pop" Raffle and the prizes are gift cards. If you would like to support our effort to raise money for cancer research, please purchase a gift card valued at \$5 or more, and drop it in the church office before May 28. For more information, call Mrs. Fraticelli at 724-941-4230.

6th, 7th, 8th Graders

There is still time to sign up for our "Relay for Life" team. This township event raises money to fund cancer research and offers you a chance to help others while having fun with your friends. St. Benedict Youth Council team members will receive an "FBI" t-shirt, and are eligible to sleep over at the high school stadium. There are many ways to become involved: decorate the team booth, walk laps, fundraise, join us for Mass, assist with the Survivor's Dinner. So grab your friends and get involved! Call Mrs. Fraticelli, 724-941-4230, to help.



Spiritual Adoption



Your spiritually adopted baby now weighs 6 ounces! The child has fingernails and eyelashes, taste buds and it's very own unique fingerprints. The baby is now developing hearing. What a miracle!

In the Spirit of Service and Sacrifice...

Thanks to St. Benedict's Military Support Group, we now have a display case in the narthex of the church. The purpose of the case is twofold: to post parish announcements; and to serve in tribute and as a call to prayer for the members of our parish who are serving in the military. If you have a family member serving in the armed forces, please send a photo, along with name, rank/rate and branch of service to the parish office c/o Jami Christopher. The names will be posted on the board as we receive them. Please pray for these men and women who have made the commitment to serve our country in this way. If you have any questions, you may contact Jami at 724-747-9396.

Parish Pilgrimage Italian Shrines & Wines

There are a few spaces left for the parish pilgrimage to the shrines of St. Benedict in October. Join us as we visit the holy places and enjoy the wineries and foods of the central part of this beautiful country. Departing October 20, we will stay for four nights in a Villa near Siena—home to St. Catherine, and visit her shrines, as well as daytrips to Florence and Lucca. Stopping overnight at Norcia, the birthplace of our patron, we will also visit nearby Cascia, the town of St. Rita. We stay four nights in the Eternal City, Rome, with a papal audience, Mass at St. John Lateran, the pope's cathedral, and visits to all the regular sites of classical and religious Rome. We also visit Montecassino, the famous abbey founded by St. Benedict and rebuilt after WWII. Stop by the office for a brochure and more information.

Help Wanted!

Don't forget to come join us next Sunday afternoon as we undecorate the church from Easter. We had so many great helpers on Holy Saturday, and new faces are always welcome. That's 1:30pm, May 31. We need packers, wrappers, folders, etc.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, May 24

*Abbey Coffee House Open after
7:30 & 10:00 Mass*

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day—Parish Offices Closed

Tuesday, May 26

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(213)
6:00p	Bites of Heaven	(OBH)
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)

Wednesday, May 27

12:00p	AA	(208)
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No Confessions This Evening

7:30p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)
7:30p	St. Vincent de Paul	(206)

Thursday, May 28

12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	RCIA	(204)
7:30p	Youth Council Meeting	(210)
7:30p	Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

Friday, May 29

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(213)
9:30a	Prayer & Share	(Cry Rm)

Saturday, May 30

7:30a	CMF	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)

Sunday, May 31

*Abbey Coffee House Open after
7:30 & 10:00 Mass*

Thank You From Food Bank

Thanks so much for your swift and generous response to our plea for food and supplies for our clients. We will always graciously accept any donation at any time, but do not need any extra help right now. It is wonderful to know that we can depend on your Christian charity in times of need. Thanks again on behalf our all food pantry volunteers and recipients.
Ruth Ann Lowery—Coordinator of PT Food Bank

Need confidential assistance? Companionship and understanding for a difficult time? Stephen Ministers are here to help you. Call 724-941-5026.



TO GET INVOLVED, CALL . . .

Abbey Coffee House

Ellie Puskarich
724-941-4686

Altar Servers

Kathleen Bench
724-942-0338

Ben's Men

Ernie Sichi
724-916-4595

Boy Scouts

Kevin Dolinar
724-942-0388

Cantors, Choirs, Bell Ringers

Greg Fincham
724-941-9406

Catholic Men's Fellowship

Ed Corbett
724-942-6429

Catholic Scripture Study

Tara Curry
724-942-7539

Elijah Cup

Carlotta Zuback
724-941-5758

Engaged Couples' Program IHN

Ed & Mary Lou Fraticelli
724-941-4230

Eucharistic Adoration

Mary Ann Campbell
724-941-4297

Extraordinary Ministers

Jack McGinnis
724-941-4213

Finance Council

Fred Abrew
724-941-4696

Food Bank

Susan Brooks
724-942-4287

Funeral Repast

Mary Kay Schaner
724-941-5147

Funeral Server

Dick Gawronski
724-873-7911

Greeters

Erma Grego
724-941-6956

Mary Spinabelli
724-942-2478

Lectors

Dawn Pustay
724-942-2451

Library

Ellen Mavrich
724-941-2446

Liturgical Environment

Emma Diamond
724-941-8315

Military Support

Jamie Christopher
724-747-9396

Ministry to the Sick

Barb Scheuering
724-941-9104

MOMS

Kathleen Chaudhari
724-941-8546

Pastoral Council

Aimee Schmidt
724-941-7046

Respect Life Committee

Beth Quinn
724-942-1057

Stephen Ministry

Jay Jarrell
724-941-5026

St. Benedict Gardeners

Linda Maydak
724-941-3123

St. Vincent de Paul

Please call parish office
724-941-9406

Ushers

Don Ligman
724-941-5938

Wedding Coordinators

Lois McCloskey
724-941-6879

Women of St. Benedict

Nancy Huffner
724-941-6805

Youth Council

Sheila Arcuri
724-942-6431